

Fred Dorst
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January 26, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

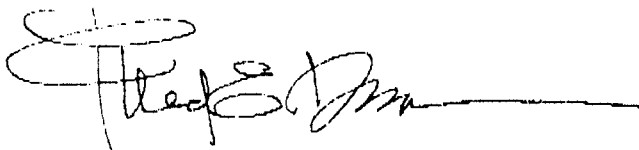
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am happy to hear that the Justice Department has decided to end its antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft. The Department's three-year case has gone on for way too long.

The agreement they came up with came after extensive negotiations with a court-appointed mediator. The company agreed to terms that extend well beyond the products and procedures that were actually at issue in the suit - just for the sake of wrapping up the suit. The company even agreed to document and disclose, for use by its competitors, various interfaces that are internal to Windows' operating system products - a first in an antitrust settlement.

Microsoft has been distracted long enough. I don't think the federal government should ever have to drag the company in to the courts ever again. It would be seen by most as nothing more than pure harassment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred Dorst', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Fred Dorst